(d) if so, the measures taken by Government to relieve congestion of air traffic and improve the passengers amenities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The unprecedented growth in air traffic, during the past three years, has posed a challenge to air infrastructure. This has led to congestion in air space and terminal capacity constraints, during peak hours, specially at Delhi and Mumbai airports.

(c) and (d) New flights are permitted subject to availability of air side capacity and requisite terminal capacity. Attempts have also been made to spread out the peak hour traffic to non-peak hours. Further, various measures have been taken to remove the congestion at airports such as construction of high speed exit taxiways and parallel taxi-tracks, upgradation and improvement of ATC infrastrucjure, expansion and modernization of terminals, etc.

Shifting of headquarters of Jet-Sahara Airlines

918. SHRI B.K. HARTPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the newly formed Jet-Sahara combine is planning to shift their corporate headquarters from India to UK and also their world operational headquarters to Brussels; and

(b) if so, whether such a move is prompted by apprehensions prevailing in private civil aviation sector of the slow pace of modernization of Indian airports delaying the completion schedule much beyond the targeted 2010?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government is not aware of any such plan by Jet Airways.

(b) Does not arise.

Merger of Air India Express and Alliance Air

919. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is possibility of merger between Air India Express and Alliance Air; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Air India Express and Alliance Air are operated by the subsidiary companies of Air India and Indian Airlines respectively. Air India Express is planning to commence domestic operations in addition to the international operations. A decision has already been taken by the Government to merge Air India and Indian Airlines into a new company.